GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2526
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001
SOCIAL SECURITY FOR SENIOR CITIZEN
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA;UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in number of Senior Citizens in the country;

(b) whether there is any social security programme for Senior Citizens;

(c) if so, the details of such programmes;

(d) whether there is any proposal to bring forward a suitable legislation to protect them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c)Under the Ministry`s scheme `An Integrated Programme for Older Persons` financialassistance upto 90% of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishment and maintenance of the following:-

- Old Age Homes
- Day Care Centres
- Mobile Medicare Units, and also
- To provide Non-institutional services to the older persons.

Under the other `Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/VoluntaryOrganisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons` grant up to Rs.30 lakhs is provided to eligible organizationsfor construction of old age homes and multi service centers for older persons.

Under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), a national Old Age Pension Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development since 15th August, 1995. This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which 100% financial assistance is provided to State Governments for social security in case of old age. According to the revised guidelines, destitute older persons of 65 years or above are eligible for an old age pension of Rs.75/- per month. The Central Government allocates funds to State Governments for disbursement of the pension.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.